resources. At Kullu Airport, apron and taxiway have been completed by AAI and other works such as Terminal building etc. are at various stages of execution. The State Government of H.P. has further demanded extension of runway at Kullu Airport for which additional land is required after retraining and reclaimation of land from river Bias. AAI has already commissioned a feasibility in this regard by IIT, Roorkee at the cost of approx. Rs. 9.75 lakhs.

Operational airports in the country

*114. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of spending Rs. 420 crore on maintenance and upgradation of airports in 2002-03 alone, only 63 out of 96 airports owned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are fully operational;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no efforts have been made by Government to operationalise 33 airports as it requires estimated investment of Rs. 1,200 crore; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Expenditure on upgradation and maintenance of airports during 2002-03 were Rs. 445.66 crore and Rs. 138 crore respectively. However, 33 airports were non-operational during the year due to non-availability of flights on account of absence of traffic demand.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Operationalisation of non-operational airports depends on prospect of regular flights operations at these airports. In the absence of any demand for flight operaions, it is not viable to operationalise these airports.

Modifications in River Linking Policy

*115. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra, through a resolution adopted by Maharashtra Legislaive Assembly, has sought certain changes and modifications in the river linking policy of the Central Government;